REMARKS

The applicants thank the Examiner for the time and effort on this case, and note with pleasure that claims 23, 26, 28, 32, 36 and 37 have been allowed. Applicants respectfully request that those claims, along with claims 34 and 38-40 as amended herein, proceed to issue.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

In the Final Office Action mailed March 29, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Without waiving any right or ability to refute or otherwise address the rejection, the applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 29 and 30 herein without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the same claims or other claims in one or more continuing applications.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

In the Final Office Action mailed March 29, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 31, 35, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Without waiving any right or ability to refute or otherwise address the rejection, the applicants have cancelled claims 15, 31, 35, and 41 herein without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the same or other claims in one or more continuing applications.

35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 15, 34, 39, 40 fail to comply with the written description requirement because "in an amount equal to or less than 0.24 weight-% of the blend" or in amount "up to 0.24 weight-% of the blend" has no

"description support" in the original specification for the oxygen getter present. Applicants respectfully disagree, as ranges such as "about 0.005 and about 0.5 weight-%", which are disclosed in the specification, include the claimed ranges. Nonetheless, Applicants have made non-narrowing amendments to claims 34, 39 and 40 to incorporate the above-described text as set forth in the specification. Applicants do not believe that the amendments are related to patentability, as the previously-presented claims were also patentable as described above.

35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 38 and 39 are indefinite because the recitation of "at least one of" is improper Markush terminology. Applicants respectfully disagree, as the use of the word "comprising" in the claims indicates that the groups are not intended to invoke limiting Markush interpretation. Further applicants are unaware of any guidance or opinion that prohibits the use of the "at least one of" phrase in a claim. In fact, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has issued numerous patents containing such terminology, including but not limited to Patent Nos. 6,911,569 (claim 1: "at least one of pressure and temperature"), and 6,911,510 (claim 6: "at least one of R^1 and R^2 are methyl"). Nonetheless, applicants have made non-narrowing amendments to claims 38 and 39 to use language expressly permitted by MPEP 2173.05(h)(II). Applicants do not believe that the amendments are related to patentability, as the previously-presented claims were also patentable as described above.

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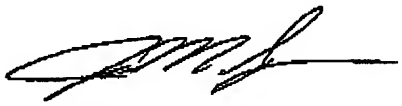
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience.

In the event that the Examiner does not believe that these remarks will place the claims in condition for allowance, we invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0436.

Respectfully submitted,
PEPPER HAMILTON LLP



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